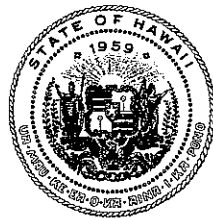
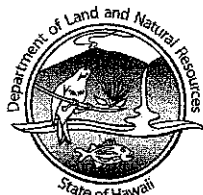


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

August 6, 2010

Aloha, e komo mai!

Welcome as we begin the process of determining the future direction and scope of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. This management plan review process will serve as an opportunity for community members to provide their views on the possible roles that the Humpback Whale Sanctuary could play in helping to achieve a broader vision for future ocean conservation efforts in Hawaii.

On June 5, 1997, Hawaii Governor Benjamin Cayetano formally approved the Hawaiian Islands Humpback whale National Marine Sanctuary in state waters. Since that time the Humpback Whale Sanctuary has been jointly managed through a federal-state partnership and serves as a successful example of partnerships providing an essential program for the conservation of marine resources that contribute value and benefit to our state in a variety of ways. The Department of Land and Natural Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration work cooperatively with the people of Hawaii to protect this important marine ecosystem. Grassroots support is vital to the success of marine resource conservation and DLNR is interested in hearing feedback from the public on their management. We are grateful to the members of the community who have taken the extra care and time to attend these scoping meetings and submit comments.

Your valuable input will be taken into consideration as we plan for the future. NOAA's partnership with the state, and with the people of Hawaii, can help to ensure that Hawaii's marine resources are protected for the continued enjoyment of present and future generations. Thank you for participating in the management plan review process and we look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "LH Thielen".

Laura H. Thielen
Chairperson